Utilising Ally Network training in addressing homophobia and transphobia in the on-campus student residence context: Experiences and lessons from Newcastle
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Attempting to regulate the behaviour and conduct of students living in campus residences poses unique challenges for university administrators and support staff, and indeed for students living within such environments. As reports of inappropriate 'hazing' rituals in campus residences circulate within the mainstream media, it is imperative that universities are not only responsive to such incidents in a practical sense, but that they also begin to develop strategies to address campus cultures of misogyny and homo/transphobia that often underpin such behaviour. This presentation will evaluate the delivery of a truncated form of Ally Network training for a group of student ‘mentors’ who live in the on-campus residences at the University of Newcastle, New South Wales. The training session took place within the residence precinct and sought to deliver relevant information about LGBTIQA+ issues while engaging students in practical, social learning activities. Approximately two months after the initial training session, a subsequent meeting with the students took place in order to give the student mentors the opportunity to give feedback on the training, and to evaluate its effectiveness. Following the training, student mentors reported increased knowledge of sexuality and gender concepts, higher confidence in supporting LGBTIQA+ students, and enthusiasm to develop events and initiatives autonomously. Drawing on our experience with this group of students, we will provide insight into how Ally Network resources can be appropriated to effectively engage student residents, and to foster inclusive communities for LGBTIQA+ students living in campus residences, examining the implications for future practice.

Learning outcomes
- Staff, Residence or Residential Mentor will have enhanced knowledge to assist in establishing inclusive communities supporting LGBTIQA+ students.
- Increase confidence in supporting LGBTIQA+ students, and enthusiasm to develop events and initiatives autonomously.
- Learn how Ally Network resources can be appropriated to effectively engage students.
Astrid Gearin has worked in the Human and Community services sector for over 13 years. In 2017, Astrid joined the University of Newcastle bringing with her vast knowledge and experience of working with, and building inclusive and diverse communities. She is currently the Equity and Diversity Coordinator at University of Newcastle. For the past two years she has been working as a student support coordinator and advocate for many students that attend the University of Newcastle including but not limited to; students who are from the LGBTIQA+ community and facilitates the ALLY network with its staff and student training.

Her previous work saw her working within the LGBTIQA+ community in a variety of capacities including casework, group and community work, training, drop ins and advocacy. She has also worked with people with a refugee and refugee like experience, and has experience working with young people and women experiencing homelessness, domestic and/or family violence together with people living with mental health difficulties. She has worked in community development over the past 7 years and supported the creation of many community projects and programs in the Newcastle region.

Astrid is a facilitator, an advocate and has a genuine interest and appreciation of people and their stories.

Barrie Shannon is a PhD candidate and lecturer in sociology and anthropology at the University of Newcastle, Australia. Their doctoral research concerns sex education and young transgender and gender diverse Australians. At present, Barrie is particularly interested in internet cultures, especially among marginalised and activist youth. When they are not teaching or writing, Barrie is heavily involved in student activism on campus, and is the current Vice President of the Newcastle University Postgraduate Students Association (NUPSA). Their work with the student association has allowed them to work with key University staff to deliver social events and structural changes to support queer students. Barrie enjoys vegan cooking, video games and reading when they have a minute to their self!